

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03080 210325Z
ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3080

BRUSSELS, ROME FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, EEW, TU, SU
SUBJECT: BURSA AIRLINES AND YAK-40 AIRCRAFT

REF: ANKARA 2950

1. WE ARE GETTING CONFLICTING INFORMATION AS TO LIKELIHOOD
YAK-40 AIRCRAFT EVENTUALLY WILL BE OBTAINED FROM SOVIET
UNION FOR USE OF BURSA AIRLINES (BHY).

2. IN REFTTEL WE CONCLUDED THIS UNLIKELY BECAUSE BHY
OPERATING LICENSE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RENEWED BY
PRESENT GOVERNMENT. IT IS TRUE THAT PREVIOUS, SHORTLIVED
ECEVIT GOVERNMENT REFUSED BHY LICENSE IN JULY 1977,
APPARENTLY ON GROUNDS STATE-RUN TURKISH AIRLINES COULD
PROVIDE SAME SERVICE AND WOULD BE FINANCIALLY WEAKENED
BY COMPETITION FROM ADDITIONAL LINE. THERE IS, IN
ADDITION, SOME BASIS FOR BELIEF PRESENT GOVERNMENT NOT
PARTICULARLY WELL DISPOSED TO PRIVATE SECTOR IN ANY
EVENT. HOWEVER, IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH TURKISH DIRECTOR
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03080 210325Z

GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA) WE WERE TOLD THAT IF BHY
SATISFIES DGCA REQUIREMENTS (FOR EXAMPLE, ESTABLISHMENT OF
ACCEPTABLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY) HE SAW NO REASON PERMITS
SHOULD NOT BE RENEWED. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE POSSIBILITY
THAT BHY WILL CONTINUE IN OPERATION AND EVENTUALLY TAKE
DELIVERY OF YAK-40 AIRCRAFT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT. WE
UNDERSTAND BHY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN USSR IN RECENT MONTHS

TO EVALUATE THE YAK-40. DGCA HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT WHILE TURKISH-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL WAS UNDER DISCUSSION, THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS INQUIRIES TO HIS OFFICE FROM TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS AS TO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING USE OF ANY TYPE OF SOVIET CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN TURKEY.

3. BURSA AIRLINES IS CURRENTLY OPERATING SPANISH-MANUFACTURED CASA 212 AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH U.S. GARRET AIRESEARCH ENGINES. LINE BEGAN OPERATIONS IN AUGUST 1977

WITH LEASED VISCOUNT 708 AIRCRAFT AND BORROWED BRITISH CREWS. (ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, ORGANIZERS OF AIRLINE FAILED TO OBTAIN OPERATING LICENSE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO INAUGURATE FLIGHTS. AS RESULT FIRST AIRCRAFT AND CREW WERE TEMPORARILY IMPOUNDED ON ARRIVAL BEFORE REGULAR SERVICE COULD BEGIN.) IN ADDITION TO FOUR ROUND TRIPS BETWEEN BURSA AND ISTANBUL DAILY, IF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT CAN BE OBTAINED LINE INTENDS TO OPERATE THREE OTHER ROUTES: CANAKKALE-ISTANBUL, BANDIRMA-ISTANBUL AND BURSA-ANKARA-KAYSERI. BESIDES SOVIETS, BHY REPORTEDLY HAS CONTACTED ISRAELI, ENGLISH, SPANISH AND CANADIAN AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS; MAJOR DIFFICULTY, OF COURSE, IS CURRENT TURKISH PAYMENTS SITUATION. SOVIET OFFER TO SUPPLY AIRCRAFT UNDER TURKISH-USSR CLEARING AGREEMENT CONSIDERABLY EASES THAT PROBLEM. DILLON

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